



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Health Care Quality and Cost Council  
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**JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.**  
Chair

**KATHARINE LONDON**  
Executive Director

## **Governance Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Monday, July 14, 2008

**Time:** 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

**Place:** Matta Conference Room – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA

**Council Members Present:** JudyAnn Bigby, Beth Capstick, Quentin Palfrey, Katharine London  
Greg Sullivan and Joe Lawler on the phone.

*Meeting called to order at 11:15am*

#### **I. Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2008 and February 5, 2008 meetings**

Committee Approved Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2008 and February 5, 2008.

#### **II. Items for Discussion**

##### **A. Proposed State Fiscal Year 2009 Spending Plan**

- The Committee reviewed the Council's FY09 Budget of \$1.8. Katharine London, the Council's Executive Director, discussed the budget items and proposed spending plan. The Council's FY09 spending plan includes an expansion in staff and contracted consultants. The spending plan also designates a large portion of its dollars toward completion of the website.
- The Council plans to hire a Deputy Director, Senior Policy Analyst, Legal Analyst and Policy Analyst to work with the Council and its Committees and to support the new level of responsibilities the Council will adopt in FY09. This will account for \$800.593 of the Council's total budget. Another \$800.00 will go toward consultant contracts that will focus on website marketing and research, outreach to non-internet users, research methods to improve quality and contain cost, and evaluation of the Council's initiatives.
- The spending plan also reflects the Council's priority to complete the website. A bulk of the FY09 budget (\$1,517,500) has been designated for the website project which includes the application expansion, maintenance and basic enhancements, data collection and storage, provider data linkage and grouping, development of quality and cost measures, calculation of quality and cost measures, and website hosting.

- The Committee proposed that the Council request additional funds from the line item 1599-2008 reserve fund for cost containment and transparency.
- The Committee agreed that the Council should submit a request for additional funding to accomplish *Goal 1*. The Committee expressed concern about the spending plan, agreeing that without additional funding some specific items will have to be omitted from the plan to meet the priorities the Council set at its June 30<sup>th</sup> retreat.
- Secretary JudyAnn Bigby reviewed projections for FY09 and recommended that the Committee reconsider FY09 staff expansion and consider hiring experts to complete the specific projects related to the Council's priorities.
- Quentin Palfrey supported the Secretary's recommendation and agreed that hiring consultants to handle the specific projects will be beneficial given the current funding.
- Greg Sullivan recommended not proceeding with the hiring process until the request for additional funding is approved or denied. Without additional funding, Mr. Sullivan does not support staff expansion and recommends designating the dollars toward completing *Goal 1: Reduce the cost of health care. Reduce the annual rise in health care costs to no more than the unadjusted growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2012.*
- The Committee agreed there are a number of issues to be discussed regarding the spending plan and request for additional funding.

B. Proposed State Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request

- Committee discussed the FY2010 Budget Request and concluded that it would be beneficial to develop a roadmap that would identify and track the Council's priorities moving forward.
- Members agreed the Council should consider hiring a consultant to develop a road map for FY2010. This recommendation will be presented to the full Council at its July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The Committee agreed that the Council will review and discuss the FY09 spending plan and execute an immediate plan for requesting additional funding to meet *Goal 1*.